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Washington D.C. Local 639 Hoffa Trustee Defeated in Local Union Election

Despite personal campaign visits by General President Hoffa, another International official has lost office in his own local union.

On Nov. 1, Members United, a coalition of Washington, D.C., Local 639 business agents and stewards, defeated the local leaders, including International Trustee John Steger.

Hoffa Visits Not Enough

Over the past year the Local 639 leaders reassigned business agents and took other steps to head off the challenge. During the campaign Steger arranged worksite visits by Hoffa, as well as a Hoffa appearance at a Teamster National Black Caucus event at the local.

Steger is the fifth International officer under Hoffa to lose a local election or be pushed aside in their home local.

Canadian VP Garnet Zimmerman was defeated in his local election last year, and Western Region VP Jon Rabine met the same fate in his local three years ago.

A move by Phil Young to continue his control of Local 41 by installing his son hit a snag when challengers won several executive board spots last year. And Dotty Malinsky was unable to win any position in her local since she lost there by a 3-1 margin; her local then decertified the Teamsters Union in favor of an independent union.

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